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# A Physicists' Peace

*Address of Dr. E. U. Condon, associate director of the Westinghouse Research Laboratories, delivered the night of December 30, 1941, at the annual meeting of the American Physical Society, Princeton University, Princeton, N. J.*

This has been called a physicists' war. The physicists are being called upon to devote themselves, and they are devoting themselves to the making of devices to help our army and navy win the fight for freedom.

There is no use contemplating the alternative to victory. One abhorrent glance at humanity degraded to slavery by Nazi-Jap masters is enough. We must and will prevail in the conflict in which we are engaged.

Of our military victory there is not the slightest doubt, in view of the comparative resources of the opponents. But let us be equally sure of victory in the peace—victory for the principles for which we fight in the world struggle today.

What, then, do we fight for? We fight for a world organization of society in which a maximum of human effort is available and effectively used for improvement of the physical, mental and spiritual well-being of all mankind. This calls right now for the destruction by force of those who have made this war for an opposite purpose—the utter degradation of all mankind to the service of the conquerors.

This will not be easy, but in the struggle we shall learn many valuable lessons. We shall learn to work together and we shall learn our strength when united in a worthy cause. We shall learn the joy of tremendous effort and sacrifice. We shall learn enough so that never again shall we go through a period of dull, stupid, enervating stagnation such as we went through in the 1930's.

After the enemy's will to conquest has been broken, then our real battle begins. Great areas will have been devastated. Even today some of the battlefields of the first World War in France have not yet been reclaimed. Men will be battle-scarred and weary. Spiritual force will be at low ebb. We shall all feel like relaxing. But this we must not do! I want to outline roughly some of the things we must be prepared to fight for when the shooting is over.

In the first place, let us be clear about the fact that there will be no lack of important work to do, as there never has been. Even in America—richest nation in the world—vast millions of our people are today undernourished, improperly housed and inadequately clothed. Think then of the enormous task that lies ahead in bringing to all mankind simply the material benefits which a small fraction of the people enjoy today.

Let us, therefore, pledge ourselves not to betray the heroes of this war in the peace. Let us make a pledge

to continue the struggle for human betterment after the last shell has been fired—and with the same fierce earnestness that men are now displaying in defending their homes against the invaders.

This Battle of the Peace shall be the most glorious adventure of the human race. Every man, woman and child in the world shall devote himself to it. The world's national and racial groups shall strive in keen and wholesome competition for the honor of making worthy advances and to help other less fortunate groups to go forward.

To win this battle we shall have to make many changes in our ways of life. We shall need to evolve a world political organization with power to maintain a society free from disturbance by aggressor groups. This is not nearly so difficult as many people suppose—given that we clearly understand our purpose and act accordingly. How much easier it would have been to stop Hitler in 1934 than now!

As citizens of a democracy we must mould our political organization to the form most suitable for the task ahead. The political solution resides, I am sure, in a close union of the allies now resisting the aggressors on a basis which provides for the gradual extension to all mankind of the liberal forms of democratic government of our own Constitution.

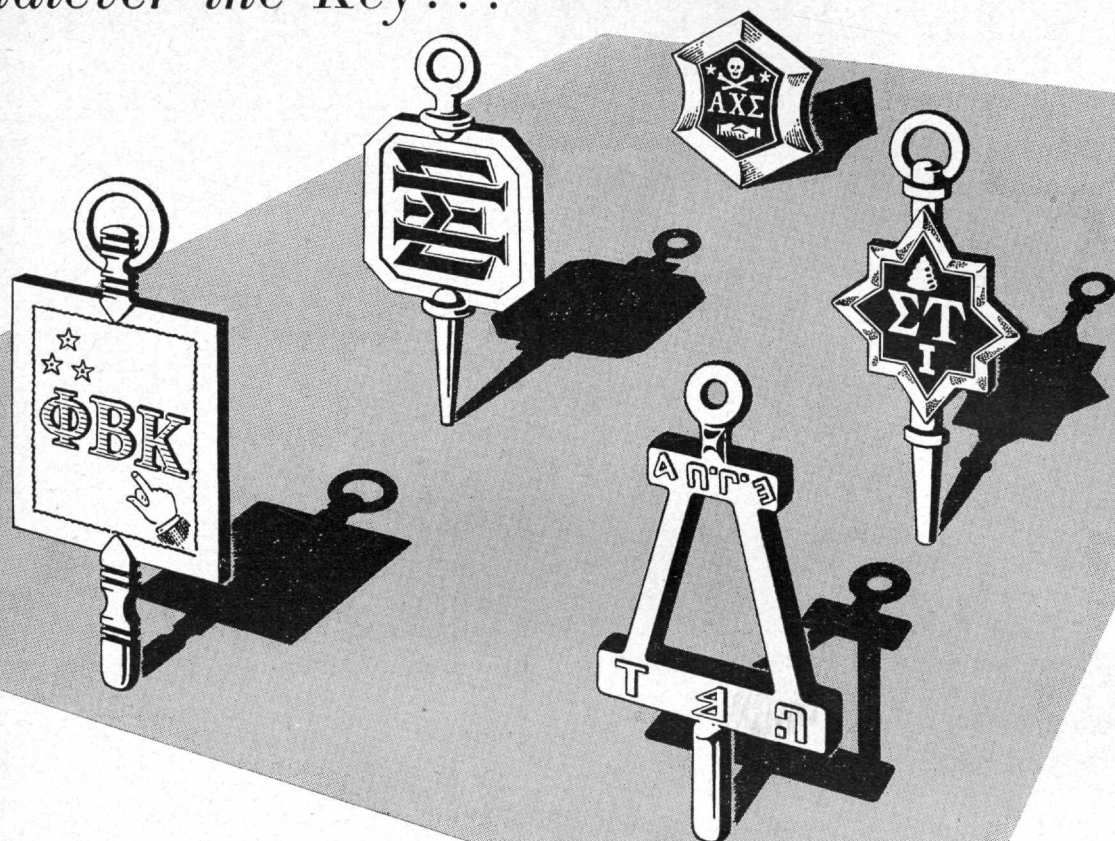
We shall learn to apply the rational methods of scientific investigation and experiment to the problems of political and economic management.

We shall insist on a much larger public support of scientific research than ever before—not in the petty spirit of augmenting the private position of the scientists, but in recognition of the importance of research to the accomplishment of our goal. Instead of an NDRC we must have a vigorous and flourishing WPRC—World Progress Research Committee.

We shall face an enormous task in re-educating a whole generation of Germans, Italians, and Japanese whose orientation at present deprives most of them of understanding the ideal we are fighting for. This will have to be worked out by a mass program of occupational therapy in which these unfortunate individuals are given an opportunity to labor at reconstruction of the devastated areas, under conditions which will also open their hearts to an understanding of what we fight for. This reconstruction, including the physical act of carrying back the loot they have

*(Continued on Page 28)*

*Whatever the Key...*



## *They Practice Imagineering Here*

We've been counting noses here at Alcoa, and we were amazed to discover the variety of Keys dangling from watch chains around here.

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THE STUDENTS CHOICE

"Where've you been?"

"To the cemetery."

"Anyone dead?"

"All of them."

"Dad, give me a dime."

"Not today, sonny, not today."

"Dad, if you'll give me a dime, I'll tell you what the iceman said to mamma this morning."

"Here son, quick, what did he say?"

"He said, 'Lady, how much ice do you want this morning?'"

## A PHYSICISTS' PEACE

(Continued from Page 22)

taken from the invaded countries, will keep the Nazis busy for a long time—and definitely out of mischief if properly supervised.

Such a program for the peace will find the physicists able to serve in a way which will entitle them to a place of honor. It is they who are charged with the duty of gaining as completely as possible a rational understanding of the physical forces of nature. It is their duty not only to gain this understanding but to pass it on to others who will put it to use in improving the physical well-being of all mankind.

The educational program we shall face is colossal. There has already been a hideous destruction by the Nazis of scientists, and libraries and scientific equipment in Europe. There has been a terrible interruption in the training of scientists. And anyway, the number of persons who were trained in science before the war is now known to be totally inadequate for the work of the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is entrusted to us to determine the future of mankind for a long time to come. Let us work together with all men whose minds and hearts are ready: "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right . . . —to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Cover picture showing crane unloading Great Lakes ore carrier is furnished by courtesy of the U. S. Steel News (United States Steel Corporation).

"Ah burnt my lips on a dish of hot chocolate."

"Yeah man. Does ah know her?"

Out of town salesman to native townsmen: "I say stranger, have you lived in this town all your life?"

Native townsman: "Not yet, Bub."

A woman stands a better chance of catching a man if she keeps her trap closed.

## THE ENGINEERS' COUNCIL

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Further Details Later